

# LAWYER'S HIDDEN "SLAVE" WILL RETURN HOME

## Many Killed in Battle of 12,000 Mexicans at Torreon

**FINAL EDITION**

**The**



**World**

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Weather—Probably fair to-night and Thursday.

"Circulation Books Open to All."

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### MITCHEL SWORN IN AS MAYOR IN JUSTICE FORD'S OFFICE; DENIES ROW WITH KOENIG

Justice Goff, Called to Washington, Was Unable to Officiate.

OUTWALKS PHOTO MEN.

Then Relents and Permits Them to Snapshot Him in Judge's Chambers.

Mayor-elect John Purroy Mitchel took his official oath of office at one minute after 1 o'clock this afternoon. The oath was administered by Supreme Court Justice John Ford in his chambers on the fifteenth floor of the Emigrant Savings Bank Building. Judge Goff, a personal friend of the Mayor-elect's grandfather, was to have administered the oath, but he had to leave for Washington.

The oath of office, delivered in short form by Judge Ford, is to the effect that the Mayor-elect will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York against all enemies.

Holding his long right arm above his head, his hand as steady as if carved from marble, the Mayor declared at the completion of the reading of the oath: "I do so swear."

**FIFTY CAMERAS POINTED AT THE MAYOR-ELECT.**

As the words fell from Mr. Mitchel's lips, at least fifty cameras parked in every conceivable position about the Mayor's study, clicked merrily and the Mayor-elect and the Judge smiled.

"We are out of breath, Mayor, after the run you gave us, and maybe the pictures aren't good; give us another chance, please!"

This from the spokesman of the camera men. The Mayor granted the request.

Mayor-elect Mitchel was first spotted by the camera men as he entered the City Hall, three steps at a time. He went to the second floor, where he had a talk with Borough President McAnany about some arrangement of office room in that building. The photographers camped outside the Mayor-elect's office door.

Suddenly the Mayor-elect appeared and shot past them like a streak. Gathering their instruments, they eyed after him. Down the winding stairs of the City Hall went the chase, Mitchel in the lead and gaining.

The Chief Executive-elect bounded like a deer through the rear exit of the building and half ran, half walked across the strip of park to the basement door of the Court House. Through this corridor his long legs carried him with amazing rapidity. On came the camera men. Some took shots on the fly, but only got a glimpse of cobbled walls and ceilings.

**SHOOT UP IN ELEVATOR AHEAD OF THEM.**

As he entered the Emigrant Bank Building the Mayor-elect caught an elevator and the camera men got to the

(Continued on Second Page.)

**CARNEGIE'S "SCOTCH" ENDANGERED BY FIRE**

Fine Stock of Whiskey in Peril—No Water to Drown It Out.

HASTINGS-UPON-HUDSON, N. Y., Dec. 24—P. M.—The garage on the country place of Andrew Carnegie, near the St. Andrew's Golf Club links, near this place, took fire this afternoon and will be destroyed. The firemen who responded to the alarm found there was no hydrant within reaching distance of the fire.

There was one automobile in the garage and a stock of fine Scotch whiskey.

P. M.—More of this story if the whiskey is saved.

Public School No. 2, 4 P. M.—The "Peech" was saved. It will be a brave Christmas morn, so it will.

### REBELS IN BATTLE RETAKE TORREON; MANY ARE KILLED

Twelve Thousand Men in Fight for City Again Lost to Huerta's Forces.

CLEAR WAY FOR VILLA.

Gives Him One More Stronghold on Way to Mexico City—Rebel General Wounded.

GUARIZ, Mexico, Dec. 24.—After heavy fighting at Torreon, the rebels have retaken that city from the Federalists, according to reports brought by couriers to-day from Jimenez, half way between Chihuahua and Torreon. The reports said that 12,000 men had been engaged, there was much loss of life and that Gen. Monclovia Herrera, the rebel commander, had been wounded.

The Federal army of 6,000 men had been isolated from telegraphic communication with Monterrey and Saltillo and in consequence of a decisive defeat their position would be precarious, said the reports.

Gen. Benavides, rebel commander at Juarez, said the report was not official, but he was inclined to believe it, as the rebels had long been planning an attack on Torreon. The Constitutionists were said to have first gained possession of Gomez Palacio and Lerdo, suburbs of Torreon, before their successful march on the city itself.

Rebels from Durango did most of the fighting, it was said, although Gen. Herrera, who was sent south by Gen. Villa, entered the fight with 4,000 cavalry.

Gen. Refugio Velasco, who marched from Saltillo and took Torreon from the rebels about two weeks ago, was the Federal commander. He was reported trying to make his way back to Saltillo.

Convinced that Northern Mexico has been practically swept clear of Federal opposition, Gen. Francisco Villa to-day sent south from Chihuahua supplies of ammunition and soldiers to follow up the attack on Torreon.

Gen. Villa was optimistic over recent events in the north, saying now nothing prevented his continuing toward Mexico City. He expects only feeble resistance at Torreon, which is an important railroad center, which has changed hands numerous times, accordingly as the attacking force outnumbered the garrison.

South of Torreon the next important Federal stronghold is at Zacatecas. Telegraphic communication between rebel headquarters at Juarez and Gen. Villa at Chihuahua was restored. The interference with the wires by a small band of Federalists caused temporary anxiety to the rebels. Most of the Federalists who evacuated Chihuahua are still at Ojinaga. Saenz's guerrilla band, which crossed the rebel lines south of Juarez, was reported to have gone beyond reach of rebel pursuit.

**MORE WARSHIPS TO MEXICO.**

Minnesota and Georgia Sail Soon to Relieve Others.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Further orders for the relief of battleships which have had long duty in Mexican Gulf waters went out to-day from the Navy Department. The Minnesota will leave Philadelphia Jan. 2 to relieve the Michigan. The Georgia will leave Boston Jan. 2 to relieve the New Jersey. The New Hampshire and Louisiana will sail to Norfolk.

The relief make no change in the number of warships to remain in Mexican waters.

**MURDERED IN HIS WAGON.**

Horses Take the Body of Robber's Victim Home.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—James R. Coleman, a farmer of Melittota, Kent County, was murdered near his home last night for \$50. He was found dead in his wagon, which the horses had pulled home after the robbers had crushed the victim's head.

Three negroes have been arrested on suspicion.

### John Purroy Mitchel Taking Oath of Office As Mayor of New York Before Justice Ford



JOHN PURROY MITCHEL, TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE BEFORE JUSTICE FORD

### CUPID'S DARTS HIT FIVE FAIR TEACHERS IN SCHOOL NO. 4

Wedding Bells Will Ring for Bronx Quintet Around Christmas Time.

Cupid has been shooting his arrows through the windows of Public School No. 4, which is located on One Hundred and Seventy-third street and Fulton avenue. The school has lots of windows and Cupid and lots of arrows. As a result of the little marksmen's endeavors there will be church services over his victims. Not less than five female hearts have been punctured by the "deadshot."

Miss Geraldine Shulze of No. 111 East One Hundred and Seventy-ninth street is being married this afternoon. But you mustn't tell anybody. It's a dead secret, and so are all the other engagements, and marriages. Every teacher in the school who knows Miss Geraldine knows what her new name is. But do you think those girls would tell on one another? Well, we guess not.

But the bells of the school is Veronica McCallum and she is to be a Christmas bride. They couldn't help telling who was to be the happy man, because all the crew said that George E. Green of Hook and Ladder No. 4 was such a lucky fellow to get such a sweet and beautiful wife, with her wavy golden hair and dancing blue eyes. So wedding bells will mingle with Christmas anthems. The happy couple will go to Atlantic City on their honeymoon, and there will be no school bells for the

### CLEAR Weather Day May RAIN for Xmas End in

Fair and Moderately Cool Weather Promised by Expert for To-Morrow.

Your Christmas weather will be: Clear. Moderately cool. Unsettled toward evening. Possibly clearing the day with rain.

All this, of course, providing those well known skeletons at the feast, Messrs. J. Pluvius and R. Boreas, do not take it into their heads to cut up dross. The Weather Bureau, however, believes it has them trained and under control this time, so all may be well.

James H. Seagr, New York district forecaster, looked out over Battery Park and the harbor this morning from the bureau at the top of the Whitehall building, traced a number of colling lines on a weather map and promised good Christmas atmospheric.

"Things have been changing mighty rapidly lately," said Mr. Seagr, "but I believe now that the present spell will endure for a time. It will continue well into to-morrow, and we hope it will last all day. There is an excellent prospect for clear and moderately cool weather, with temperatures a little above freezing."

"It now looks certain that we will have to get along without a Christmas snow. There will be neither snow nor winds, so far as we can see now. Otherwise there will be excellent Christmas weather. If it does settle toward to-morrow night there will be rain, I think, not snow."

Speaking with limited generality, the whole season is having a green Christmas—something like it. It is raining in Kansas and Nebraska, also in parts of Michigan and Illinois, but the fall is very light, temperatures are high and the snow will not be long. Texas and Oklahoma are being saluted with springlike rains and rains also are falling in Northern and Western New York.

"And it may be," reiterated the forecaster, "that we will have rain here, but it will not be before Christmas night."

Meantime—

bonny bride until after the New Year.

Lillian Manheim of No. 180 Bryant avenue will also be a Christmas bride. Nobody will tell who her fiance is, but it is whispered that her name after to-morrow will be Mrs. Benjamin Jaffe. The bride-to-be could not be found at her home and the girl only litter and say that some mean man gave them away.

There are rumors that the foregoing announcements are only a few of the engagements of Public School No. 4. And the brides-to-be are all young and pretty. While they have been teaching they have been learning too. Cund is such a good little teacher. Two weeks ago Miss Cund Streetsman disappeared for a few days' vacation. She returned to school on time as Mrs. Elsie Ford says. Mrs. Elsie Ford, 1244 Ave. C, says that she will be no school bells for the

### "SOUL WIDOW" WILL GO TO HER RELATIVES FROM PRISON CELL

Kin of Miss Branch, Who Was the Secret Affinity of Lawyer Couch, Wire Sheriff They Will Welcome Woman Now in Jail.

TRIED TO KILL HERSELF WHEN RAVING FOR "MEL."

Brother-in-Law of Couch Tells of Vain Efforts to Hide Woman and Avoid Scandal After His Death.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)  
MONTICELLO, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Herbert Branch, postmaster of Hartwick, a suburb of Cornwallville, N. Y., where Adelaide M. Branch, the voluntary slave of ex-District-Attorney Melvin H. Couch of this place was born and brought up, wired Under Sheriff Hall this afternoon that he will arrive here on Friday and take his sister home. This decision followed, according to Hall, a long family council, to which members of the Branch family, which is one of the best known in this part of Sullivan County, were invited. At first it is understood several of the women relatives stood out against Miss Branch, being invited to a family reunion, but ultimately the persuasion of Herbert prevailed and Hall was notified.

He told Herbert Branch that, following her attempt to kill herself in her cell to-day, and in view of her highly nervous condition, it would be inadvisable to allow Miss Branch to leave her cell for Christmas day as the family wished. Dr. Curlette, Couch's brother-in-law, and Dr. Crouther, the prison physician, both concurred in this opinion, and decided that Friday would be the earliest date at which Miss Branch would be sufficiently normal to be at large.

This was not such a disappointment to the woman as might have been expected. Her method of life with Couch has made her distrustful, shrinking and timid of the world outside the partition in his law offices behind which she passed her lonely days. Should she not have recovered her mental grip by Friday the county authorities will continue to hold her in the jail, despite the fact that no charge is lodged against her.

**MAY COMMIT WOMAN TO INSANE ASYLUM.**

Should the woman's intellect prove to be hopelessly wrecked District-Attorney George L. Cook will insist upon her mental condition being examined into and her commitment to the Middletown Insane Asylum may result.

So far as Mrs. Couch is concerned the affair is as a closed book. When during yesterday's blizzard the sofa on Couch's grave were smoothed down the crippled lawyer's memory became a dead letter with her, she declared to an Evening World reporter to-day.

The rumor of Miss Branch's early morning attempt to end her life circulated through Monticello with the rapidity common to all small communities. Farmers who had driven in to town to celebrate Xmas eve drew up their teams under the window of the cell the woman occupied in the hospital division of the gray, granite jail, and

**THREE KILLED IN WAGON CARRYING XMAS GOODS**

Struck by Express Train at Grade Crossing—One a Boy Taking a Ride.

HAMMONTON, N. J., Dec. 24.—Three persons were killed at a grade crossing here to-day when a Reading Railway express train struck a wagon and demolished it. The dead are: Milton Diger, driver, Clifford Ott, ten years old, Dunkle, a young man.

All lived in Hammonton. Diger and Dunkle were engaged in delivering Christmas packages and the boy was taking a ride with them. The horse was not injured and ran three miles before it was captured.

**LOFT TO FEED THE POOR.**

Congressman Will Give Xmas Baskets to 1,500 in His District.

Congressman George W. Loft and Mrs. Loft to-morrow will distribute 1,500 baskets to the poor people of the Thirtieth Congressional District. The baskets will contain turkey, soup, potatoes, bread and vegetables enough for a family of ten people.

The distributions will be held at the different Assembly headquarters. The First Assembly District people will receive their baskets at the Huron Club House, No. 29 Hudson street; the Third Assembly District at No. 27 Bowery; the Sixth Assembly District at No. 24 Seventh street; and the Eighth Assembly District at No. 226 Grand street.

is destined to listen to wedding bells in about a week.

Mrs. Jeanette Ortmann Gamse has left Public School No. 4. She was married a few weeks ago, but did not get back from her honeymoon at the appointed time. She applied for reappointment, but forgot to say that she had been married. The school board got mad because it wasn't let into her secret.

**SAILING TO-DAY.**

La Libertad, Havre ..... 10 A. M.  
Vaderland, Antwerp ..... 10 A. M.  
Santa Maria, Jamaica ..... 10 A. M.  
Maracabo, Leguayra ..... 10 A. M.  
Monterey, Havana ..... 3 P. M.

FOR RACING SEE PAGE 10.

**THE EVENING WORLD**

**WILL NOT BE**

**PUBLISHED TO-MORROW**

(CHRISTMAS DAY)